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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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4-8-1927

## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 14)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 14)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-  
ness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."  
—Job 27:6

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
united! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. IX, No. 14.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

## President Sigman Visits Prisoners

Brings Greetings of Fellow Workers to Victims of Communist Treachery

President Sigman paid last Friday, April 1, a visit to Hart's Island, where four members of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York are confined in jail as a result of the "advice" given them by the former officials of the Communist-led Joint Board to plead guilty in connection with charges growing out of the last cloak strike. President Sigman brought the prisoners a message from their fellow workers in the cloak and dressmakers' unions and reassured them that the International Union is doing its best to secure their freedom.

These imprisoned men, Jos. Forensky, Nathan Lentz, Abe Figowitz and Sam Cohen, told President Sigman that Communist emissaries sought to induce them to deny their written statement that they reject Communist help and that they appeal to the membership of the Union to disown the Communist misleaders. They, however, refused to be bribed and to have anything to do with the Communist gang.

## Sigman Warns Liberals To Keep Out of Communist Net

Notifies Officers of Civil Liberties' Union That "Committee of One Hundred For Imprisoned Cloakmakers" Is Communist Device to Raise Money for Their Plug-Ugly Activity—Only Communists Elected at Secret Meeting as Executives of Still-Born Outfit—International Will Defend and Is Defending Its Own Members.

A new trick of the Communists to raise money, with the aid of American liberals, for their assault-and-battery activity in the cloak and dress unions, a bastard offspring of their other moribund efforts to sell "cloak-strike bonds", "save-the-union-bonds", etc., went crashing to the ground at the first meeting of a "committee of 100" sponsored by Communist agents for the "defense of imprisoned needle workers".

This meeting took place late in the afternoon this Monday, April 4, in the Civic Club, 18 East 16th Street. It was held in a small room of the club where about 25 persons, of an advertised one hundred, got together, most of them women well known for their activity in Communist Party circles.

Representatives of the I. L. G. W. U., of the American Federation of Labor, of the Furriers' Union and of the Amalgamated appeared at this meeting and declared that the liberals who allowed their names to be used in connection with this committee, some of them directors of the Civil Liberties' Union, had been misled by the Communist promoters of this scheme and warned them to keep out of the internal affairs of the unions. Among the trade unionists who spoke were Vice-president Julius Hochman, general manager of the Cloak and Dress Joint Board, Edward McGrady of the A. F. of L. Committee in charge of the Fur Workers' situation in New York, and manager Abraham Beckerman of the Amalgamated Joint Board.

The so-called committee of "100"

## New York Joint Board Solemnly Installed

Delegates Take Oath of Allegiance to Union and Its Principles  
Brother Ben Kaplan Elected Chairman of Central  
1927—President Sigman Inducts New Body Into Organizing Drive to Begin at Once—Many Greetings.

The installation meeting of the newly elected delegates of the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt and Dress Makers' Unions of New York, took place in the Ranel School Auditorium last Saturday afternoon, April 2, before a large crowd of delegates and guests that crowded the hall and the balcony.

It was an impressive gathering full of earnest and stirring moments, a meeting that signalized the victory of sound trade union policy over unbalanced and destructive tactics that nearly ruined one of the finest labor bodies in the country. And the delegates pledged their honor and their word that, in the future as in the past, they will help guide their union

along the paths of constructive.

The meeting decided to instruct incoming board of directors of the Joint Board to undertake at once the organizing activity of the non-union shops in the cloak and dress industry on a scale unequalled in the past. President Sigman conducted the installation ceremony.

A committee from Philadelphia greeted the incoming Joint Board in the name of the organized ladies' garment workers of that city. Congratulations were also received from Boston and Cleveland. Judge Jacob Panken and Abraham Shiplakoff brought greetings from the Socialist Party and from the Pocket Book Workers' International Union.

The meeting did not elect its regular complement of officers and standing committees, but unanimously chose Bro. Ben Kaplan, member of Local 2, as the chairman of the Joint Board for 1927.

## Deposed Communists Admit They Issued Duplicate Local 89 Cards

Justice Tierney Reserves Judgment on Application of Local to Restrain Communists From Issuing Counterfeit Due Cards to Italian Members.

Argument for an injunction pendente lite restraining Louis Hyman and other officials of the defunct Communist joint board of cloakmakers from issuing false and counterfeit membership dues cards of Italian

Dressmakers' Local 89, affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and from collecting dues and assessments from members of the local was heard yesterday by Supreme Court Justice Tierney, sitting in Special Term, Part I.

Local 89 also is seeking to prevent the defendants from representing themselves as officers of the local and of the joint board and to prevent various acts of violence and intimidation which the defendants are alleged to have inspired against members of the union. Philip Bongiorno, of 51 Chambers Street, appeared for Local 89, and Louis Bordin for the Communists.

Justice Tierney declared that, if the charges made by Local 89 are true,

(Continued on Page 2)

## Communist Officials Doubled Number of Non-Union Shops In 1926

Joint Board of Sanitary Control Finds 100% More Sub-Standard Non-Union Shops Than in 1926.—628 Such Shops in New York Market.

628 non-union shops have been brought to light through an impartial survey conducted by the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in New York City. This information was made public on Monday, April 4, at a special meeting of the representatives of the Board.

The number of non-union shops discovered is over 100 per cent more than existed when an investigation was made by the board in 1925. The location of these non-union production units, which have increased so rapidly during the year the Communists were in power, is as follows: Brooklyn, 213; East Side, below 15th Street, 73; 15th Street to 56th Street, 314; Harlem and the Bronx, 29. Most of the shops were rather small, the probe showed. There were 376 shops with less than 14 machines. There were 211 shops having between 14 and 29 machines, 26 had

between 21 and 39 machines, and 7 had between 31 and 40 machines. Of the 628 shops, five were found in base-

(Continued on Page 2)

## International Union Bank Shows Marked Gain In Last Two Months

Union Members Display Greater Interest

A growth of resources of over half a million dollars in two months is a record of the International Union Bank. February 1 of this year the resources of the bank were \$3,861,398.17. On April 1, just two months later, the bank's resources had increased to \$4,367,965.16. The present month promises to show an even greater increase and there is every

prospect that by the first of June the resources of the bank will be over \$5,000,000.

Substantial progress is being shown in every department of the International Union Bank. This splendid advancement appears in the Thrift Department as well as business accounts and every day an increasingly large

(Continued on Page 2)

employment Fund and  
Communist Stamps  
erily Assailed

Chicago Joint Board, which is  
new Communist-controlled of-  
fice in for a severe denuncia-  
Saturday, April 2, at a large  
g of cloakmakers, which was  
in the Labor Lyceum, Kodzie and  
on Avenues.

The speakers, among whom there  
were many of the oldest and best-  
known members of the Chicago cloak  
and dress organization, criticized se-  
verely the inability of the "left" of-  
ficers of the Joint Board to enforce  
the agreement with the manufacturers  
in the industry and to control work  
conditions in the shops. They pointed  
to the fact that the members of the  
employers' association have ceased pay-  
ments to the unemployment insurance  
fund because of the failure of the  
Communists in office to insist upon  
payments. The same officials are ille-  
gally selling stamps in the Chicago  
office to raise money for the New York  
Communists and are neglecting the  
business of the local organization.

The speakers also declared that one  
of the leading shop dress manufactur-  
ers in the market is operating under  
two agreements, one published and  
one secret.



## Pres. Sigman Warns Liberals To Keep Out of Communist Net

(Continued from Page 1)

The few genuine liberals who attended the meeting felt considerably embarrassed by the tactics of their "comrades".

Before the meeting opened, the chairman declared the selection of an executive committee for this "impartial" body, consisting of the following: Helen Black, former publicity agent for the Communist Joint Action Committee in 1925, Scott Nearing, member of and lecturer for the Communist Party, Robert Dunn, a Communist and Left Wing sympathizer, Clarissa Michelson, a Left Wing adherent, and Ann W. Craton, secretary, an avowed Left Wing follower.

Manager Julius Hochman, on behalf of President Sigman, read a statement in which the "impartial liberals" are warned to keep out of the affairs of the L. L. G. W. U. and not to meddle with its functions. President Sigman, in his statement, branded this "committee of 100" as an out-and-out Communist device to raise money at the expense of cloakmakers whom they themselves had consigned to jail by making them plead guilty to charges of which they were innocent. In this statement President Sigman also enumerated several Communist strong-arm men who had been placed under high bail for assaulting members of the

Union. The statement declared that if this "committee should be so indiscreet as to appear for the Communist soundrels, they will find the Union on the side where justice, respect for civil liberties and decency reside."

Manager Beckerman made a short speech in which he declared that while it may be quite a noble thing for liberals to raise money for imprisoned workers, they should know that in this particular case it is not a question of a workers' struggle against employers but a fight of Communists against the unions. "If the liberals are ready to raise money for the Communist slugs, why not raise some money too to take their victims out of the hospitals?" he asked.

Edward McGrady of the Fur Committee made a strong protest against the tactics of this "committee of 100" and their cynical attitude to the representatives of the trade unions. "The American Federation of Labor will clean Communist gangsterism out of the unions," he said. "In the furriers' union there had been arrested a number of Communist gorillas who had brutally beaten and cut up a number of workers, and I challenge you to take up the defense of these brutes. If the committee desires to enter into an alliance with the underworld, it is welcome to it, but the A. F. of L. will combat it to the bitter end."

## International Union Bank Shows Big Gain

(Continued from Page 1)

number of people are using the bank's efficient service to remit money to Narope.

Prominent among the men who have so freely given of their time is Mr. Solomon Fillin, well known in financial circles. For over a year and a half Mr. Fillin has been identified with the bank as one of its directors, and at a meeting of the Board of Directors in February he was unani-

mously chosen Chairman of the Board and placed in direct control of the bank.

Mr. Fillin has let it be known that henceforth his main work will be the direction of the International Union Bank and its many activities. With him in this work he is having the active co-operation of not only progressive organized labor, but hundreds of substantial business men as well.

## Lefts Doubled Number of Scab Shops

(Continued from Page 1)

ments, \$1 were found in stores, and 19 were found in the rear of houses.

### Sanitary Conditions Bad

On the sanitary situation in these shops, the Joint Board makes the following comment:

"The most important defects found were not so much in construction as in condition. A number of shops were found with locked doors, aisles too narrow, fire escapes obstructed, and important fire protection defects. The

most important sanitary defects were those relating to lavatories, halls and yards, the screening light and ventilation and dirty walls and doors."

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## Deposed Communists Admit They Issued Duplicate Local 89 Cards

(Continued from Page 1)

the case becomes one for the District Attorney. He intimated further that those responsible for intimidating and beating up union workers should be deported, if they are not citizens. Mr. Boudin admitted that the duplicate cards complained of were issued by the Communists, but declared they had the right under the constitution and by-laws of the International Union. The court gave both sides until next Tuesday to submit briefs and reply affidavits.

The argument yesterday followed issuance of a restraining order to Luigi Antonini, as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 89, which complained against the "fake" membership cards. It was accompanied by affidavits by Antonini, President Morris Sigman, and by 15 Italian cloakmakers who charge that the Communists had duress and subterfuge forced them to give up their membership cards, to cards not recognized by the International in return, pay monies to other than their own properly elected officials and in some cases, by threat.

In addition to the affidavits, annexed to the order are 27 exhibits purporting to show "fake" membership cards issued by Julius Portnoy, a Communist adherent, as "secretary of Local 89." Portnoy is a Jew, and the fact of his signature to "membership cards" of an exclusively Italian local union is stressed in the affidavits.

The Communists, in the affidavits, are charged with setting up what are tantamount to dual unions, through using fac-similes of bona fide union cards "to defraud and cheat the plaintiff Local 89, and to procure for themselves by fraud, deceit and misrepresentation the dues and assessments" due Local 89. Beside issuing "spurious membership cards," the affidavits recite that certain of the defendants named refused to return bona fide cards then in their possession to Italian workers in whose names they were issued.

Giuseppina Merenda swears that two of the defendants, Salvatore Amico and Rothenberg, threatened her

with the loss of her job and "with a good beating by a specially delegated strong arm squad of the joint-board." Lilly Raitano also swears that Amico and one, Fanny Coles, threatened her with physical violence to make her surrender her membership card in bona fide Local 89. On February 24 last, according to an affidavit by Carmela Taverna and Tina Socciare, employed by the firm of Sklarow and Kaufman, 327 West 36th Street, defendants Clara Fabiana and Armida Mazzei accompanied "by a gang of thugs" invaded the shop and assaulted all the workers present for refusing to declare a strike which was unauthorized by their own union officials. The other accompanying affidavits are of the same tenor.

Louis Hyman, in his responding affidavit, calls Sigman "a former I. W. W. organizer" and, at present, "a convinced syndicalist." During the struggle within the union in which Hyman and his associates were expelled, Sigman had been called "a deep-dyed reactionary."

## HARLEM BANK OF COMMERCE

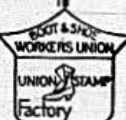
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## Seeing America First

By NORMAN THOMAS

An exceedingly busy three weeks' trip in the Middle West, mostly but not exclusively in colleges and universities, revealed no "revolutionary" movement of significance in any sense of the word in any section of the population. The farmers, with reason, are discontented. But I talked with wise observers who agreed that only in Iowa and Illinois was anger at the President's veto of the McNary-Haugen bill a serious political portent. Coolidge may be unpopular in the agricultural regions, but if the Republican convention were held tomorrow he could be renominated without contest. The farmers, I was told, want something but are by no means certain that the McNary-Haugen bill which a few leaders prepared is just what they want. Such conversations as I had and such superficial observations as I could make rather strengthened my own increasing conviction that the old style individualistic American type of farming is done for, at least in the great one crop areas. The best hope is the development of cooperative machinery and organization. But that cannot be imposed from on top. Meanwhile, the farmers have enough political power to compel one of the political parties—probably the Republicans—to pass some sort of law in their favor. What sort will depend on their own intelligence and the power of their own organization. My guess is that it will not be the McNary-Haugen bill in the form in which the President vetoed it.

Not only the country districts but the small towns in America seem to a hasty observer to be losing out with respect to the cities. And this in spite of radios, automobiles and many genuine charms and advantages of small town life. In nearly every city one sees public improvements of magnitude and beauty which have no equivalent in the smaller towns. These towns usually have some comfortable homes and pleasant, shady streets. Often they have good new school buildings. But they have no town planning of any visible sort. The business sections are woefully unattractive and the Middle Western towns especially are in great need of paint. Griminess, of course, is not the fault merely of the small towns; it is conspicuously evident in the great industrial areas in the cities and it part of the price we pay for our unscientific use of soft coal.

One thoughtful man told me that the money in the small towns is being drained to the big cities by the steady growth of absentee ownership, and that after every small town man has bought his automobile there is no money left to make the towns gracious and beautiful. All of which is passed on for what it may be worth.

My trip did not take me into the coal fields though it took me near them. I found an impression even in well informed circles that there would not be much of a strike. The reason generally given is that the miners' cause is hopeless. I think that there will be a strike and a bitter one in the central field. The only success that can come through it will be through the organization of non-union territory. A correspondent of the Cleveland Press insists that rank and file miners from Southern Ohio are going to swarm into West Virginia to organize the non-union fields. If this can be accomplished it will be a great victory. It is to be feared that it will have to be a victory of the rank and file. Certainly there is nothing in the words or deeds of the Lewis machine in the last few years to inspire much confidence or hope.

We are not Al Smith voters, but he does deserve better luck than to have that old Texas politician, witch hunter and thought controller of war days, ex-Postmaster General Barleson, come out for him.

### No Intervention in China

In the serious Chinese situation a few things stand out clearly which must not be forgotten:

1. The Nanking incident was in itself tragic and disappointing to those who had high hopes of the discipline and restraint of the Nationalist army. Nevertheless the whole affair has been grossly exaggerated all over the world. In Russia apparently the exaggeration has to do with the damage wrought by the bombardment of the city in the effort to rescue the foreigners under attack. In England and America the exaggeration has had to do with the Chinese attack. Yet even so prejudiced and unscrupulous a correspondent as Frederick Moore of the New York Times has had to record that only one American life was lost and that many Chinese showed great friendship and helpfulness to the foreigners.

2. There is clearly a moderate sentiment in the Chinese forces which regrets the Nanking incident and wants friendly relations. Foreign Minister Chen and a number of commercial bodies have already transmitted regret for the Nanking incident. If we want to ruin this moderate party the surest way is to push a policy of intervention.

3. Under no circumstances can a policy of intervention in China be successful. At the most military forces can only help to evacuate foreigners. Chinese forces may now be rather weak in a military sense. Their immense numbers, their tremendous national spirit, and the supply of arms which they can get from Russia and Germany by ordinary commercial relations make them unconquerable in the long run by any force we can or will use.

4. Serious talk of intervention is born of the Bourbon stupidity of "old China hands," i.e., foreigners long resident in treaty ports, who cannot get over their racial arrogance and of the interests of British Imperialists who are doing everything possible to get our help in pulling their chestnuts out of the fire. Why should American boys die to protect British concessions—we have none ourselves. Why should American boys be offered up on the altars of imperialism, which in this case means predominantly British imperialism? The Chinese hate this imperialism with reason. The British nation has on its head the guilt of the opium wars, the steady exploitation of China, and the recent massacre of Wanchow. It is in no position to take the role of the aggrieved friend of China attacked by malicious agitators. Yet this is the role of British writers who frantically seek our support.

5. American newspapers once more have capitulated to the militarists. Most of the news sent over from Shanghai is obviously colored. Frederick Moore whom the New York Times has

put in place of the fair minded Thomas Millard is one of the chief sinners. He had an anti-Chinese complex before he was sent to Shanghai, he colors his despatches, and his appointment is proof of how skin deep is the

### "Spreadeagle"

A cynical, corroding play of how Big Business sets out to make a war was revealed Monday night at the Martin Beck Theatre in "Spreadeagle" which sets down Jed Harris as the most courageous theatrical producer of this generation, if not of all time. With the United States now on the brink of war with Mexico, it is amazing to witness a plausible *deus ex machina* on a New York stage so skillfully fitting into the day's news. Jed Harris seems to shout: "Read today's New York Times on the Mexican situation and see my show to find out what it's all about."

"Spreadeagle", by two obscure newspapermen, George S. Brooks and Walter Lister, who will not long remain in their obscurity if the patriotic and Ku Klux societies get after them as obvious anti-war propaganda, but propaganda which is expressed in clear-cut theatrical terms. We find Martin Henderson, owner of fourteen international properties (his "14 points"), seeking to purchase a Mexican general who will foment a revolution but who will stay bought. Henderson, of course, doesn't hope to get much out of the general himself, but if he can be trusted long enough, then American intervention can be forced upon our neighbor to the South. Everything seems to conspire in Henderson's favor, especially when he gets the son of a late President to take a job in one of his Mexican mines. There is no better way to furnish the fuel for war than by having a President's son killed by the "greasers".

This Henderson promptly proceeds to have accomplished. The boy is reported killed by the very own men of General de Castro. America is plunged into war and the audience is treated to some of the devices by which the proper war spirit is engendered in those who have to fight the wars and pay for them. A news reel is flashed upon a screen to martial music, Henderson being shown as a dollar-a-year man; the radio is used to blanket the land and, finally, the newspapers begin to churn out their poison for love of country—no, no, for love of Martin Henderson.

The rest of the story doesn't very much matter. It is in the characterization of Henderson's confidential man, Joe Cobb, played consummately well by Osgood Perkins, and in the brilliant, disillusioned, wise-cracking lines that one finds the bitter denunciation of capitalist intrigue. The play is a tract, built on the structure of good melodrama, but is plausible because it pulsates with life. This thing is real, one feels. It rings too damnably true.

If this reviewer may be permitted to do some little propaganda himself, he urges every one of his readers to grab his hat and rush for the Martin Beck Theatre. He will have a most enjoyable night.

RICHARD ROHMAN.

## JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2143

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription Price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 14.

New York, Friday, April 8, 1937

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1926, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1911.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1108, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1936.

devotion of the New York Times to calm, uncolored truth.

6. Under these circumstances it is the business of Americans to evacuate China. The only possible justification of our military forces is to make that evacuation as easy and orderly as possible. It is none of our business to join a united front of foreign powers and we are glad that President Coolidge sees that fact. If our missionaries and business men have made friends in China and have filled a useful role in Chinese life, the Chinese themselves will in time invite them back under conditions which time a nation which has rigidly excluded Chinese from its own territory has no right at all to fight in order to force Americans upon a country distracted with its own civil war.

This is one of a series of discussions on topics of the times released to labor papers twice a month. While the discussions are guided by the general principles of the L. I. D., namely, education for a social order based on production for use rather than for profit, neither the L. I. D. nor the Advisory Committee assumes responsibility for all opinions expressed. That responsibility belongs to the author. We welcome comment, criticism, suggestions, which we are anxious whenever possible to incorporate in subsequent issues. We should like copies of papers in which this service is used.

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, of "Justice" published weekly at New York, N. Y., for April 1, 1937, in the State of New York and County of New York.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Abraham Baroff, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, publisher of the "Justice" and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the name and address of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 3 West 16th St., N. Y.  
Editor, Max D. Danish, 3 West 16th St., N. Y.  
Managing Editor: None.  
Business Manager: None.

2. That the owner is, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 3 West 16th Street, N. Y.; Morris Sigman, President; Abraham Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer, 3 West 16th Street, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are none.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholders or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, or other securities than as so stated by him.

ABRAHAM BAROFF,

Secretary-Treasurer.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of April, 1937.

SIEMON L. HANBURGER,

Notary Public.  
(Commission expires March 30, 1938).



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Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 14.

Friday, April 8, 1937

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1935.

## EDITORIALS

### DAY IS BREAKING!

Whoever was privileged to witness the installation of the New York Joint Board last Saturday afternoon in the Debs Auditorium left it with one indelible thought: The cloakmakers' and dressmakers' unions of New York have come to life again!

The miracle of rebirth, the ecstasy of revival filled to overflowing the mind, the heart and the soul of the audience. What a true solemnity, what pent-up enthusiasm there was in every simple word uttered by the shop chairmen who brought floral tributes, how deeply genuine rang the invocation of the chairman, sounding more like a fervent prayer than a formal oath of allegiance, like a prayer for unity, for unbroken solidarity and unswerving fealty joined in by the delegates and visitors alike in a mighty chorus!

We have seen many a Joint Board installation before. We have watched time and again the induction into office of new administrations—in New York City and in other cities and at conventions—but, we confess, we have never experienced at any meeting of this kind in the past the thrill and the stir that has gripped us last Saturday. It was so unlike the ordinary installation meeting—with its unnecessary long speeches and cut-dry formalities. There was not a dull moment during the three hours the meeting lasted. Not a minute of it was given over to praising the outgoing officers, though everybody felt that they have done a splendid piece of work for their union and for the Labor movement. Not a sentence was devoted to eulogizing the incoming Joint Board, though, by common consent, a more fit and loyal group never had been chosen by our members to administer the affairs of their central body.

But, from the beginning of the meeting until the final gavel fell, it breathed one intent, one desire, one slogan: Build the union! Lift it up to the height of prominence and command where for years it stood as the guardian of the conditions of life and labor for tens of thousands—nay, hundreds of thousands, of human beings! Not only the men in the offices, not only the leaders of the organization, but all of us must become the master builders of our Union, its defenders against the aggression of the common enemies of the working class—the scheming profit-hungry employers and the no less dangerous crafty politicians parading under the cloak of "revolutionary" messiahs!

And there was another thing we observed at last Saturday's meeting—the return of joy and happiness into our midst, of a joy that shone in the eyes of many delegates and lighted up their faces. It is a long time, indeed, since joy has fled our ranks giving way to depression and bitterness mixed with fiery resentment. It is a long time since we have not observed at our meetings a genuine smile of contentment, the warm rays of comradeship that cheer the heart and make the gruelling grind of the worker's struggles less onerous and burdensome. But last Saturday, as the chant of the oath of fealty fell in slow, massive rhythm from the lips of the delegates who stood in tense attention, we saw the glimmer of joy, of unalloyed happiness flaring up again in the countenances of our men and women who for long and trying months have endured, in grim desperate determination, the burnt months have endured, in grim desperate determination, the brunt often appeared insurmountable.

There were tears of joy in their eyes and their voices were muffled with enthusiasm, because they at last realized that their union is now definitely safe in their own hands, that the days of doubt, heartaches and despair are left behind. How perilously near they came to have their ship wrecked upon the treacherous rocks toward which the piratical Communist crew had steered it! Small wonder they were elated, small wonder they were astir with enthusiasm and joy, now that their vessel is back in port, weather-beaten and frayed by the storm but sound and whole, nevertheless, and manned by their own crew and steered along a course charted out by their own experience and their own fighting traditions.

Yes, day is breaking and the nightmare is over. Fears, doubts and misgivings are now all cast aside. Ahead of us is hard work, but to all of us it shall be a work of love, a work of inspiration. We shall build in the knowledge that our labor soon will be rewarded by the complete resurrection of that magnificent organization in the cloak industry of New York City which for fifteen years was a model for other progressive labor unions in America, and whose word and order was the law regulating work conditions in that great industry.

### A NEW COMMUNIST ALLY

The Civil Liberties' Union, an organization of radicals and liberals of various shades and hues, which for several years past has carried on, with a degree of success, defensive work in behalf of free speech and free assembly, has embarked last week on a venture that, we are certain, is bound to leave a considerable amount of tarnish upon its escutcheon.

The Civil Liberties' Union have, namely, allowed five of its executive officers, acting as "individuals", to become actively associated with a "committee of 100", engineered by the ousted Communist ex-officials in our Union and in the furriers' organization of New York, for the "defense of imprisoned needle workers". Without consulting our International Union in the matter and against the solemn protest addressed by President Sigman to the executive board of this group, they decided, though unofficially, to ally themselves and cast their prestige in behalf of a Communist money-raising scheme, ostensibly to "defend" prisoners but actually, as everyone who knows the Communist gentry and their ways is aware of, to pay the "expenses" of the sluggers and gangsters who are still invading daily the garment district to harass and intimidate our members employed in union shops.

This, of course, may be harsh fare for Messrs. Ward, Holmes, Bailey, Dunn, et cetera to swallow. It may even appear to them preposterous that they should be accused of being taken into camp by the Communist collection artists and thus be made the aides of these disrupters in this last stage of their campaign of mischief-making in the needle trades. But it, nevertheless, is a fact, no matter how strenuously the directors of the Civil Liberties' Union might deny it, that the sum and substance of their unofficial alliance with the Communists is to lend aid and succor to their fast dwindling influence for evil and disruption in the cloak and fur industry.

The liberals and the radicals on this committee will probably soon learn that their readiness to permit their names to be used by persons who themselves sent union cloakmakers to jail in order to save their necks, was an ill-considered and regrettable step. They will soon learn that the Communists in America have as much use and regard for liberals as their party-comrades have for liberals in Russia, where they had exterminated them by hundreds of thousands and had driven them into exile or into a state of perpetual silence—save that here in the United States, they are quite willing to exploit them for their party purposes whenever the occasion arises.

The directors of the Civil Liberties' Union may also find out, in the not distant future, that the American Labor movement will not be slow in appreciating their "unofficial" alliance, in the defense of sluggers and gangsters, with the ousted Communist job holders. They will discover that the Labor movement has accepted this alliance at its full face value, and will henceforth class the Civil Liberties' group as a Communist adjunct and supporter.

In conclusion, we are not inclined to exaggerate the possible amount of harm that this endorsement of Communist thuggery by a group of liberals may cause the workers in our unions. We are inclined to believe that it will amount to very little, both in a financial and moral way. But there are on this committee a few men and women who have earned for themselves reputations for solid achievement in this community, and we regret, indeed, that their names should be smeared with the Communist muck and become involved in a fake money-collecting adventure, an adventure for which they will have to offer some protracted apology in the future.

### THE RAPID ADVANCE OF THE FUR WORKERS

The splendid success of the registration campaign of the fur workers under the banner of the A. F. of L. and the decisive drift away from the Communist-controlled furriers' joint board this week, is surely a subject for sincere gratification for all the members of our organization. The recognition by the principal fur manufacturers' association of the Federation's Committee and of the International Fur Workers' Union as the organization to which it would hold itself responsible for the enforcement of union conditions in the shops, only accentuates the gains scored by the A. F. of L. in its efforts to emancipate the fur trade from Communist abuse and confirms the advance made by the reorganizers of the Fur Joint Board and of its locals.

The fur manufacturers certainly could be accused of being unfriendly to the Communists simply because they are Communists. They are primarily manufacturers and they are, we presume, interested in continuing contractual relations with the organized element in the trade that promises stability and permanence in meeting the obligations a trade agreement involves.

Ten months ago these manufacturers practically had only this Communist-controlled Joint Board and its satellites to deal with. The majority of the workers in the trade lay submerged, under the iron heel of Communist terror and under the threat of their mailed fist. So they signed an agreement with it. Today, this same group of manufacturers, after the American Federation of Labor had expelled the Communists in charge of the Joint Board and of its locals and had reorganized them under the auspices of the International union, and after thousands of furriers disregarding the bloody intimidation of the Communist chiefs had registered with the new body, the manufacturers realized that the union in the fur industry is not the group that still maintains itself in office by sheer force, but the reorganized forces of the loyal fur workers under the direction of the American Federation of Labor.

It requires no particular sagacity safely to predict now that, within a few weeks, the deposed Communist job-holders in the furriers' organization will be left with what their fellow disrupters



# With American Communists Underground

## 7. Why Is It Easy for A Scalawag To Become A Communist Leader

Thieves and Grafters Who "Made the Revolution" for the Communists.—A Famine Story by a Commissar from Russia.

By JOSEPH LEVINSON

SOME time ago the "Forward" printed a letter by a furrier, in which he tells the story of how Ben Gold, the Communist manager of the furriers' joint board, had transformed a thief into a "respectable leader". The "Forward", naturally, expressed surprise and even doubt at this reported change, but every Communist who is aware of what is going on in his party, knows that such things actually happen.

From my former articles, one gets a clear picture of how the leadership of the Communist Party is everywhere passing out of honest hands into the hands of dishonest leaders. The Communist adventure is little by little degenerating to such a low level that there is no room in its leadership for an honest man. So the honest Communist is being ousted and the adventurer and faker takes his place. These blatherers are, naturally, very careful to hide their doings from honest eyes, and so they surround themselves by persons of their own ilk.

I have indicated in my previous articles how the honest element is being kept out from leadership in the Communist movement, and how they are being humiliated and oppressed. In my present article I will attempt to describe how the Communist leaders shield shady characters and persons guilty of rank Communist treachery. The membership of the Communist branches is loud in its protests against this sort of thing, but nobody listens to their outcries. The Central Committee and Moscow manage to shut the mouths of the "kickers".

Two "Revolutionists" in the Workmen's Circle and the Amalgamated

No movement or institution can always guard itself against dishonest persons. Even the most ideal institutions are not proof against it, and some sneak or thief might always worm his way into it. I should not like to state that because a thief, or even ten thieves had been caught in the Communist Party, that all Communists are dishonest. Dishonest people had been caught red-handed in every sacred place. But what does an honest, idealist organization usually do when a thief is discovered in its midst? It, naturally, gets rid of him forever.

But in the Communist Party the opposite is true. When the Communist leadership discovers a thief in its ranks, the offender is not only given a clean bill of health, but is given an important post in the party. I have mentioned several such cases in my previous articles, and will now touch upon two characteristic cases

of two commissars who had been stamped by the Communist seal as thieves, but who are still lordling it over the Communist flock. I have given the correct names of these two commissars to the editor of the "Forward", and though I will refrain from using their true names here, I am certain that every active Communist, every active member of the labor movement and of the Amalgamated Union, will know whom I mean and what their names are.

"A" is an executive member of the Jewish Communist Federation, from whose lips a lava of continuous venom flows against the Amalgamated Union and against Beckerman. He is the commissar who has been assigned to the job of "reforming" the Amalgamated, and to unearth treacheries and scandals by Beckerman and by all the right leaders of the Amalgamated. In short, he is the person in charge of the "revolution" amongst the men's clothing workers.

To the membership he is known as a pious star-gazer, with his eyes always riveted upon "world-revolution" and the Communist Internationale. If a Communist dares to question or criticize the actions of the leadership of the "Cheka", this priestly commissar is invariably on the spot to take the culprit to task. Like a saint, with his sidelocks still wet from the baptismal baths of the revolution, he scolds the erring Communists, telling them that the Communist Internationale never forgives and never forgets.

This holy saint was sent as a collector for the "Freiheit" to tour the country to raise money for the Communist organ. And as befits a dignitary of his order, this commissar had pocketed the whole collection and brought back to the "Freiheit" an empty bag. This Communist emissary was a member of the favored "Number One" group, while the comrades of the "Freiheit", at that time, were nearly all of the "Number Two", or mere "aliens" attracted to the movement. So what need was there for a "Number One" member to give an account to these people? Wasn't he the incarnation of revolution, and did not the money that went down into his private pocket go for an inspired cause just the same?

### A Typical Communist Honor Trial

But the "Freiheit" boys began to demand the money. There is no money, was the reply. Well, then let us have at least a report. There is no report, again came the answer, and there will be none.

So he was put on trial. The Executive Committee of the Jewish Communist Federation, of which he was a member, tried him and found him guilty.

(Brother Levinson knows the story as it was reported to the branches of the "Number Ones". However, we have another direct account of this case from a "Number One" member. The story is as follows: The case against this saintly commissar was conducted by Comrade Saltzman, who was manager of the "Freiheit" at that time. Saltzman was a member of the "Number Two" order. He knew that if he, a member of the "Number Two", were to convict a "Number One" nothing would come of it, for it was common practice among the "Number Ones" to meet in secret and to squash all charges against their members. So Saltzman resorted to a trick. He charged the thieving commissar with appropriating \$250. He declared, however, openly that the amount for which he was suing the commissar was \$225. Naturally, the "Number Ones" met and worked out a list which they submitted at the trial, showing how the \$225 was spent. And here Saltzman played his trump card and asked what had become of the remaining \$25? The "Number Ones" could not at the spur of the moment think of any alibi, and so the commissar was "convicted". The was found guilty of appropriating Communist funds for his personal use and of not submitting a report of his collections. He was suspended from the executive board until he would pay back the amount which he misappropriated.

When the report of the trial and conviction reached the Communist branches, a storm of protest broke loose amongst the members. Many of the branches sent their protests to the executive board, denouncing the trial board for letting the criminal off with such a light punishment. The branches were in a state of fury and the executive was forced to send representatives to defend its actions before the branches.

Two weeks later, the branches were surprised to receive another communication from the executive board with regard to this saintly knight-errant.

In this communication the comrades were informed that the man accused of appropriating money belonging to the "Freiheit" is out of work at present and is, therefore, not in a position to repay the "loss". It was, therefore, decided to give him a job on the "Freiheit" so that he might make good. He is still holding down that job, which he, in fact, received as a reward for his exploits. Had he, not stolen, he probably never would have become a scribbler in the organ of the world revolution.

This man is now one of the most active and important members of the Workers' Party. His specialty is reforming the "graters" in the unions. He is trying to make the Amalgamated and the International a "clean and honest union". He is the acme of Communist honesty and its ideal of militant trade unionism.

What is the reaction of the members of the Workers' Party to such a state of affairs?

The following day, after it had been reported at our branch meeting that this commissar was to get a position with the "Freiheit", I came up to the "Freiheit" office and asked some of the comrades whether these are the wages of Communist sin.

But in reply I received from the comrades only smiles. Such occurrences, obviously, have ceased to impress them. So they merely snicker at them.

### Other Whitewashed Saints

And here is a case of another fellow with gummy fingers. He is a relative of one of them placed highly in the

local Communist hierarchy, and sent here all the way from Moscow. In fact, he was related to the man who acted as high priest before Pogany (Pepper) came to take his place. The fellow in question never was a Communist, but after he was given a job in the "Yidgeskom", he became a Communist. He pays dues in the party and preaches "world revolution". His chief job is writing stories about the Workmen's Circle. He is the commissar in charge of all matters relating to the Workmen's Circle. It is his business to see that "honesty and a true revolutionary spirit" reign in the Workmen's Circle. It is his business to keep up the cry that the leaders of the Workmen's Circle are crooks. But, how did he come to this point? It is a simple story:

He used to be the treasurer of a Communist-controlled branch of the Workmen's Circle, and while acting in that capacity it so happened that the treasury of the branch disappeared in his own pocket. He was tried by the branch and found guilty, and, as a result of this conviction, was suspended from membership. But since he had a "pull", being related to one of the "big chiefs" of the executive, the executive cleared his name and ordered that he be reinstated to membership in the branch, and when the latter refused to take him back, the executive threatened to dissolve the branch. Under the pressure of this threat, the branch was finally forced to accept him as a bona fide member, absolved of all guilt.

The cases of these two Communist commissars are but a drop in the sea of crookedness in which Communist leadership is immersed. I again wish to stress the fact that this rottenness affects particularly the commissars and the leaders, for there are many sincere, simple people who are members of the movement. Most of these members are ignorant as to what their leaders actually carry on. It is enough to bring to mind such prominently associated with disruptive work in the I. L. G. W. U. names as Elias Marks, Stiglitz and Kono-witz. One could write pages upon pages about each one of them. Some day, when the workers will learn better their true color, they will ask each other in consternation: "How is it possible that such disreputable people could have played leading roles in the Communist Party?"

### Aping the Great Russian Example

I mentioned at the beginning of this article, that honest, sincere people were ousted from the leadership, in the Communist Party, and their places filled by charlatans and good-for-nothings. I merely wish to mention here, that the key to the lock of this charlatan business in America lies in the aping by the local Communists of the way and doings of their Russian brethren.

After the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, an American anarchist, a Jew by the name of Shatoff, became Chief of Police in Petrograd. As police chief during the days when the Cheka was all-powerful, Shatoff had a great deal of influence. He used this power in such a terrible and gruesome manner, that he was sentenced to be shot by a military tribunal. No sooner was the death sentence passed, than Denjan Biedal, the Bolshevik poet, rushed to Lenin to ask a pardon for Shatoff. Biedal was a great pal of Shatoff's, and his companion at drinking parties, and so he came to Lenin to plead for his friend's life.

Lenin knew what Biedal's mission was. "What," he asked, "have you still a bottle to empty between you two?"

"Yes, dear comrade," answered Denjan Biedal, "you have guessed my purpose in coming."

"Shatoff must die!" cried Lenin. (Continued on page 7)

were left in the cloak and dress industry—with deserted offices and a few dozen mercenary guards, but without workers and without a vestige of influence in the shops. It is certain that the back of the Communist beast is broken. The Communists will, for a time yet, no doubt try to flaunt the will of the workers in the shops and run things on the old "Cheka" system.

But not for long. The emancipated fur workers, now sure of their strength and supported by the united forces of organized labor, will protect themselves efficiently against the gangster attacks of the Communists. The rest will follow inevitably. The remnant of the adventurers will be driven out of their last citadel by the inexorable logic of events—just as they had been doomed to oblivion and to an unsavory memory in the other needle workers' unions.



# EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



## Social Tendencies In Literature

By B. J. R. STOLPER

Course Given at Workers University, Washington Irving High School, Room 530, Saturday, March 25, 1:30 J. M.

### LESSON 12

**Scenery** These are valuable only as they help put and keep the audience in a proper state of mind to follow the conflict and the results.  
**Costumes** They may be realistic, futuristic, or absent altogether. If they center the interest of the audience on the play, they help and are good. If they distract the attention, they are bad, no matter what they are and who created them.

**The Music** Like scenery, lighting, etc., music now serves a purpose in setting the audience in the proper state of mind. It is worth praising or condemning, and not for itself alone. It is now often omitted altogether.

**The Theatre** Where and under what conditions the play is performed—the seating, the decorations, the printing, etc.—are always worth discussing, since they, too, help or hinder one's enjoyment.

**The Audience** Finally, no discussion of a play is really complete, unless the audience has also come in for comment. Who and what were they? How did they react, especially between the acts? Certain plays bring out certain audiences and one may sometimes have a basis of judgment for the former from observing the latter.

**The Author** Some knowledge of the author is always a help in understanding the play. How much of himself has he put down in the lines? Which of the characters might be said to represent "his" point of view? What "is" his point of view? Is he consistent with what he has seemed to express elsewhere, in other plays or in other utterances?

**The Box Office** Some dull plays have long runs. Some fine, some witty ones are taken off after short intervals. Why?

**Summary** In short, if a play is worth discussing later from every angle. Reviews in the newspapers are a great help in picking what plays to see, when one's pocket-book is limited. It is suggested, however, that the review be clipped and read again "after" seeing the play. Reviewers make lots of mistakes. Your own brains are your best judge.

## Workers Education Bureau Issues Fifth Convention Call

The Forty-sixth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor at Detroit, Michigan in October, 1925, gave renewed and unmistakable evidence of its interest and support of workers' education. A comprehensive educational program was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the delegates and a provision for more adequate financial support of the movement likewise received affirmative action.

This support by the American Trade Union movement is an earnest of good faith. It is a recognition by labor of the value of workers' education to the progress of the labor movement. It is an indication of sound growth. We, therefore, invite the affiliated National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies, Local Unions, Trade Union Colleges, Study Classes, Departments of Workers' Education and other Workers' Educational Enterprises to the Fifth National Convention of the Workers' Education Bureau to be held in the city of Boston on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of April, 1927.

The basis of representation in the Convention will be as follows:

Group 1. National and International Unions: One delegate for National and International Unions with membership up to 20,000; Two delegates with membership from 20,000 to 100,000; Four delegates with membership from 100,000 to 200,000; Five delegate with membership from 200,000 to 400,000 or more.

Group 2. State Federations of Labor, Departments of Workers' Education, City Central Bodies, Locals are entitled to one representative with one vote each.

Group 3. American Federation of

Labor entitled to five representatives with one vote each.

Group 4. Workers' Study Class, Trade Union Colleges and Workers' Educational Enterprises shall be entitled to one representative with one vote for each 25 enrolled students or major portion thereof.

Delegates to the general convention must be representatives of the classes or organizations they represent and must have been in affiliation at least 60 days before such meeting to carry voice and vote.

The sessions of the Convention will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library at Copley Square and in the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University on Commonwealth Avenue at Exeter Street. The first session will begin on Friday morning, April 22nd, at 10 o'clock. The public is invited to attend all the sessions. The Hotel Lenox at Commonwealth Avenue and Exeter Street will be the official headquarters of the Convention.

James H. Maurer, President; Thomas E. Burke, Treasurer; Matthew Well, Chairman, Exec. Com.; John Brophy, Fannia M. Cohn, John P. Frey, Thomas Kennedy, George W. Perkins, John Van Varennewyk, Spencer Miller, Jr., Secretary.

### A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM

At the request of many of our members we are planning another visit to the Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, and have Mr. Horach, the president, explain the paintings and exhibits to our members. We will decide on a date convenient to most. The announcement will appear on this page of "Justice."

## The Students' Reunion Night

Hundreds of our members assembled last Saturday at the annual reunion of our students and instructors. This year it had a double purpose, as we were also celebrating the tenth anniversary of our Educational Department. All those who have attended our courses, lectures and entertainments, instructors, friends and representatives of our local executive boards came to the affair.

An exceptionally fine atmosphere prevailed. Unlike previous years, this time the dancing began at 8:30 and continued all evening to the music of the Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players. On the other side of the hall tables were gaily decorated in red and green on which delicious eats were served.

An feature of the evening was the musical program given by Ray Porter Miller, coloratura soprano, and James E. Phillips, basso, with Marcus Perper at the piano. Miss Miller sang the "Waltz Song From Home" and Juliet," "The Two Magicians," by Pearl Curran and "The Wren," by Benedict. Mr. Phillips chose "The Rivals," an old English song; "Boots," a song set to the words of Kipling's poem, and "The Big Bass Viol."

Then came the inspiring song written specially for this evening by our good friend, Samuel H. Friedman, and dedicated to the work of our Educational Department and to the many thousands who have attended our educational activities. Mr. Friedman led in the singing, and the audience joined in the chorus. It was a beautiful and unforgettable moment.

Sister Mary Goff, of Local 62 and chairman of the Students' Council, made a short and inspiring address. She was elected chairman, on recognition of the fact that she was one of the first students who took the courses at our Unity Centers and Workers' University, and actively participated in the development of our

### BOOKS

Our instructors have recommended books to our students in connection with their discussions. We would advise our members to read these. They can be obtained at the public library. In case you wish to purchase any books you can get them through our Educational Department at a saving of 33 or 40 per cent.

activities. She afterward went to Brookwood, and since her graduation from there has held office in her local union. Sister Goff explained the purpose of the occasion that it is also the celebration of the tenth anniversary of our Educational Department; that we are proud of the fact that our International was the pioneer in the field of workers' education; that we have carried on the work under all circumstances and conditions, and that it has become one of the most important activities of the Labor movement. She then read a resolution signed by a committee of the Students' Council which appears elsewhere on this page.

Sister Goff expressed her regret that Fannia M. Cohn, secretary of our Educational Department, had a cold and could not come to the meeting. Many messages of congratulation were received from friends.

The bright decorations of the hall added much to the joy of the evening and special appreciation should be expressed to Sisters Pearl Yanofsky, Bella Dasher, Fanny Feinstein, Clara Teaman, and Brother A. Kreiter. They were on the refreshments committee and worked all Saturday afternoon decorating the hall for the evening. We are also grateful to many whose names we do not remember, who acted as hosts and carried trays of refreshments around to the guests. We also wish to express our appreciation to the artists who contributed so much to the evening, and to Samuel H. Friedman for his inspiring song.

## AN INTERESTING COURSE IN LITERATURE

Mr. B. J. R. Stolper, last Saturday, completed an interesting course on "The Silver Cord."

We planned to have Mr. Stolper give a few more lectures on the drama, but this will be given later, as the students were of the opinion that the last Saturday before the Spring holidays many of them will be busy shopping. The date of these lectures will be announced later.

The outline prepared by Mr. Stolper for the students are excellent and of great educational value. Our educational Department will prepare sets of these outlines for free distribution among our members. They can be obtained at our office, 3 West Sixteenth Street.

## Prof. Salvemini Will Speak To American Workers on Fascism

The Salvemini Committee and the New York Chapter of the League for Industrial Democracy are combining in a farewell dinner to be given to Professor Gaetano Salvemini on Wednesday evening, April 20, at 8:30 p. m. at the Fifth Avenue Restaurant, New York City.

Professor Salvemini who has spent three months in the United States talking on the question of Fascism will speak on this occasion on "Fascism and Labor in Italy." The address will be followed by general discussion. Professor Salvemini was for many years Professor of History at the University of Florence and was regarded as one of the most distinguished scholars of Italy. During the

assisting in the preparation and distribution of an underground newspaper opposed to Fascism and remained three months in jail before he was finally acquitted. Having been twice refused a passport to leave Italy, he finally fled from Italy and escaped to Paris. More recently he has been lecturing at the Sorbonne and at Oxford University. In the United States he has spoken before scores of audiences on the question of Fascism and has made a profound impression.

Tickets at \$2.50 each for the dinner may be obtained from the League for Industrial Democracy, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City (Chelsea 3377). Norma Thomas will preside.



## With American Communists Underground

(Continued from Page 5)

"He deserves to die!"

"Please, do not kill him, Comrade Lenin," pleaded Demian.

Lenin began to pace up and down the room. Suddenly he stopped and asked: "Do you believe that there is something still left in Shatoff that the revolution can make use of?"

"Yes," cried Demian, "I honestly believe there is."

"Will you vouch for him?" asked Lenin.

"I will," answered Demian fervently.

After a short pause, Lenin sent Demian home.

"Go home," he said. "Tonight you will be drinking again with your good pal Shatoff."

When Demian Biedni returned to his room, he already found Shatoff waiting for him. He and Shatoff certainly got drunk together that evening.

Several weeks later a notice appeared in the Moscow official press, to the effect that Shatoff had been appointed high commissar in the Far East, in Siberia.

I heard this story from a Soviet commissar at a meeting which I attended. This commissar, about whom I will say a few words later, had the story from the lips of Demian Biedni himself in Moscow.

Well, such was Lenin's policy: If the scoundrel can be of use to the revolution, then he must not be shot. And America copies Russia, and follows out "Lenin's policy". The man has robbed a Communist newspaper. Well, yes. But he can still be used to fill the American Communist treasury. So give him a Communist job.

Another person has robbed a branch of the Workmen's Circle. Well, but he can still be used to foment the "revolution" in that organization. Give him another job where he can be most "useful".

I once asked Bittelman, the commissar who had been appointed to act as receiver for the bankrupt "Idgokhom", "How can you bring such a man as Stieglitz into the party, when there are such serious charges against him in his union?" And Bittelman answered a la Lenin: "Can we make use of him in our Communist branch? Well, take him in, then!"

Similarly I asked Holtzman (Holtzman was Secretary of the Federation at that time), how he could recommend Konowitz to membership in a Communist branch, knowing that there are charges of graft against him in the union? And Holtzman's answer corresponded to Bittelman's: "Why bother about charges? Can we use him in our interests? Yes! Then accept him into our ranks."

And Yuditch, who had been present when this conversation took place, added: "Yes, take him into the branch. We are convinced that all those who are under charges with the International, will prove to be the best fighters against the International and for Communism."

And here you have the secret of that system of graft and dishonesty! Lenin made use of a certain policy in the Russian Revolution, and all his disciples in America are practicing this "policy" in the name of a certain abstract revolution. Lenin spoke of using somebody in the interests of the "Revolution", whereas in America they are trying to make use of scoundrels and outcasts in the name of "our interests", for the "bunch", and for the "collection artists".

### The Morale Sinks Lower and Lower

I must admit, that during the first two years of the existence of the Communist Party in America, it had a clean, strong morale. But no sooner

did the hypocritical leaders begin to turn their eyes towards the "world revolution", that they became the interpreters of Lenin's code. The men of principles and of honor were driven out one by one. Graft and dishonesty became the order of the day. This has destroyed the morale of the party, and I do not doubt that it will cause the destruction of the entire Communist movement. No enemy has been so successful in undermining the Communist party, as has been the low moral code introduced into it by the big and the little commissars.

The scene between Lenin and the Bolshevik poet, which I mentioned above, was told to us by a certain Finkelberg, upon his arrival from Moscow.

Finkelberg was not a "regular" commissar. To be sure, such a man would never have found a place or even minor leadership in a movement which was not an adventure, but in the Communist movement, where one becomes holy after having bathed in the sacred waters of Moscow, Finkelberg, too, could become a satellite.

A young New York Jew takes a free ride to Moscow, paid for by the Communist treasury, and he returns back to New York hallowed as commissar Finkelberg.

When Finkelberg returned from Russia, he asked me, as Secretary of the Russian Federation, to arrange several meetings of a "few chosen" comrades, at which he would make a report of his visit to Moscow.

I arranged such meetings for him, and was myself present at one meeting in my district, held in Osborn Street, Brownsville. As requested by Finkelberg, I called only a chosen few to this meeting. I brought one person with me—a Ukrainian called Kissel, a devoted Communist who was profoundly thankful to me for having taken him along.

All who were present at the meeting sat as if in a trance. Just think! A report from Holy Moscow! And Finkelberg related all the wonders that he saw and heard in the sacred land.

At that time the famine was raging throughout Russia. The workers had very little to eat, Finkelberg told us a brutal, heartrending story. He was speaking to his own comrades, so he told how the workers were dropping in the streets, famished and exhausted, while Communist delegates from all over the world lived at the hotels at the expense of the government, eating and drinking of the best. He told of how hungry workers would go past the Hotel De Luxe, gnashing their teeth and shaking their fists. He Finkelberg, was entitled to live at the Hotel, but he declined to make use of this privilege, because he intended to return to Moscow in some future time and he did not wish to "earn a bad reputation with the hungry workers".

He told us how the American Communist, Nicholas Hourwich, son of the late Dr. Isaac Hourwich, lived at the Hotel De Luxe in Moscow. Later, he was fired and another commissar was appointed in his place, but Nicholas refused to move out. He had to be moved out by force of the Red Army guards. And among the other talks of what was going on in Holy Russia, Finkelberg told us the story about Shatoff.

After he finished talking, most of us felt miserable. We were ashamed to meet each other's eyes. On our way home my friend Kissel said to me: "Comrade Levinson, what is this we heard tonight? Why, when the New York newspapers write of such things, we condemn them and say they lie?"

Another comrade remarked: "If the 'Forward' were to write this, we

## With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

A regular meeting of the Joint Board was held on March 25, at 3 W. 16th St.

### Communications:

Local 22 approves the minutes of the Joint Board of March 19, 1927.

### Managers' Reports:

Brother Halperin, Manager of the Jabber Department, submits the following report of the activities of the Jabber Department from the day he entered into office until March 7, 1927:

"We have 127 settled jobbers, 84 are members of the Merchants Ladies Garment Association, 43 are settled independently. One jobber settled recently with the International and 42 settled during the time of the strike.

"Brother Schoenfeld, of our Department, visited all the independent jobbers and obtained from them the names of the contractors, union and non-union, with whom they are dealing.

"We notified the jobbers immediately to discontinue dealing with the non-union contractors. With some jobbers we made arrangements, whereby one of our officers and a representative of the jobber should visit the contractors and try to unionize the non-union contractors and also have all the workers register.

"Our office also requested Mr. Wolf to investigate the books of the independent jobbers in order to ascertain the correct number of non-union contractors with whom they are dealing. With the exception of three jobbers, Potter and Schattman, M. A. Rubin, S. Steopack, most all have been investigated. Our office has declared strikes against the above mentioned jobbers for refusing to submit their books for investigation.

"We have received the registrations of 958 contractors from members of the Merchants, through the Association. Our accountant also investigated the books of 25 independent jobbers, controlling 665 contractors.

The Manager of our Department visited the jobber Copeloff-Stillman Co. and the latter called all his contractors and instructed them that unless all their workers were registered with the International, they would receive no work from the jobber.

We have also received a complaint that the workers of Rubin & Abramson did not receive wages due them. Brother Schoenfeld collected from the jobber, Williamsburg Mfg. Co., \$433.00 for the workers' wages.

Last week we were notified by the Merchants Associations that the workers of Zimmerman & Tannenbaum, 27 W. 24th Street, refused to continue working on the garments of their member, Ted Edelman.

Brother Schoenfeld went up to the shop and learned that one of the firm disappeared with two weeks' wages of the workers. The workers watched the earnings Thursday all night and Friday all day. They then complained to the deposed Joint Board and their Business Agents Rogers and Tuchman went up on the complaint. They took the names of the workers and left the shop without taking any action to save the wages of the workers. When Brother Schoenfeld together with Brother Gordon came to the shop, they

would all jump up and yell: "Liar! Lie!"

True enough. A few years later, when the "Bundist" lecturer, R. Abramowitz visited America to lecture on Russian conditions, the Communist Party organized its "shock troops" to prevent him from saying just the things which their own little commissar Finkelberg had told "a few chosen comrades" only a short time before.

found the workers tired out and disgusted.

Our representatives did not question the workers whether or not they belonged to the International, but immediately called together the three jobbers, Ted Edelman, I. Levy and Garfinkel & Rosenblatt, and compelled them to agree to pay the workers their full wages, amounting to \$2,204.25; although two of the jobbers had already given the contractor \$800.00 the day before to pay the workers.

The workers were paid by our representatives in the shop. As soon as the workers noticed the action of the International representatives, they all decided to register with the International and adopted a resolution in which they pledged themselves to remain loyal to the International and help build up a strong union. They also decided to donate a part of their wages for the International fund and expressed their appreciation to the representatives of the International.

Brother Halperin's report is approved.

Brother Perlmutter, Manager of the American and Independent Department, reported that a department, from March 7 to March 19, disposed of 311 complaints, as follows:

Discharge cases, 16; unequal division of work, 2; violation of wage scale, 17; reduction in wages, 1; wage claims, 11; violation of hours of labor, 3; employing non-union contractors, 3; Working for non-union jobbers, 22; piece work system, 33. Investigations, 88; general shop control and registration, 39; employing non-union workers, 1; sending out work while inside workers are idle, 2; to straighten out existing shop controversies, 6; Jobbers registration, 13; special control in shops where deposed J. B. is active, 17; non-union shops resigning agreements, 8. Unemployment insurance, 9; sanitary label, 48; dealing with deposed Joint Board, 2; employing non-union workers, 4; payment by check, 1; non-payment of Research Department Fee, 53.

Brother Perlmutter's report is approved.

### Report of General Manager:

Brother Hochman reports that on Tuesday, March 22, a shop chairmen meeting was held at Beethoven Hall, and the chairmen participated actively in the discussion of trade and organization problems.

Brother Hochman reports further that he presided this afternoon at the weekly meeting of all the District Managers and Business Agents, and it is to be seen from the reports of their activities that great progress is being made from day to day. This is especially true with regard to the Dress Department.

Brother Hochman states that the Dress Association wanted to take out an injunction against the Communist administration before they settled with the International, but President Sigman did everything in his power to stop them. However, the Association got an order against the Communist forbidding them to picket their shops at present.

Brother Hochman recommends that Brother Moskowitz take over the office of Manager of the Dress Department, and since Brother Spielman has been elected Secretary of Local 22, Brother Hochman will recommend somebody to fill the position of Complaint Clerk of the Dress Department at the next meeting.

Report of Brother Hochman is approved.

M. SCHOENFELD,  
Secretary.

## The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The progress of the International and of the Joint Board towards the rehabilitation of the union and of the cloak industry, insofar as they had been affected by the demoralizing activities of the Communists, is fast moving ahead. With the installation last Saturday, April 2, of the newly elected officers of the Joint Board, the last phase of placing the union on a normal basis was practically reached.

### Enthusiasm Marks Installation

The installation took place in the Hand School, 7 East Fifteenth Street, amid eloquent addresses of welcome before a large and enthusiastic audience composed of officers of the International and of the various local unions of this city, out of town and of the members of the New York executive boards and active members.

Benjamin Kaplan, of the operators' local 2, was elected president of the Joint Board. International Vice-President Julius Hochman is general manager. Isidore Nagler and Samuel Perlmutter are managers, respectively, of the Protective and of the American and independent departments.

The platforms of the Debs Auditorium was decorated with floral tributes—gifts from various shops and local unions. Greetings, telegraphic and personal, poured in from fraternal and affiliated unions. Nagler's reading of Local 10's rousing greeting added to the enthusiasm. The addresses were marked by the absence of rancor and concerned themselves solely with the welfare of the union.

### Our Wonderful Jubilee

This splendid demonstration, unlooked for and spontaneous, followed closely on the heels of Local 10's celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Planned as a local affair, this celebrating assumed the proportions of a general festival of the International, participated in by the official American labor movement. Both events came at a moment when the cause for rejoicing was ripe, and at hand.

The purpose for which the International was organized was the paramount issue emphasized. The International's successful efforts to isolate the Communists has made it possible for the union once again to function along sound trade union lines. The political charlatans have at last been segregated and their union-smashing activities fully exposed.

At the present time, unable to control the industry, deserted by the trade unionists, the Communists are, as is their wont, actively engaged in forming fake organizations—"Housewife councils, councils of working-class wives, cloak and dressmakers' wives," and so on and so forth. Recently they sponsored an organization of a few gullible liberals for the purpose of covering up the mess they had caused when they practically railroaded cloak-makers to prison by telling these cloak-makers to plead guilty to charges entered against them by the police in the last general strike.

### "Peace" Proposals a Fluke

"Peace" proposals also are broadcasted by the Communists and their puppets in the same manner as in 1925. Only this time the cloak and dress shop chairmen interested in the welfare of the union refuse to pay attention to their rantings. Even bosses are being used in this "peace" drive. A former manager of the dress contractors was the author of a letter in a Jewish daily offering a "peace plan."

But no attention of any sort is paid by our workers to these dying gasps of a horde of politicians. The work of the union by trade unionists for the proper control of the industry and the

establishment of decent working conditions is going on. "The cloakmakers and dressmakers of New York," says the leading editorial in the issue of our journal last week, "have reclaimed their union, their fortress and bulwark of defense, and no power on earth, no amount of Communist conniving and trickery will wrest this union out of their hands again."

### Cutters Greeted on 25th Anniversary

The esteem in which Local 10 is held by its sister and fraternal organizations is evidenced by the numerous telegrams that keep pouring in even at the time of writing on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Greetings came from Poland, under the signature of Sidney Rottenberg, former president and business agent, and from the local labor movement one came from Seattle, Washington.

"Heartiest congratulations. The fact that you are able to celebrate at this time in such an auspicious manner is proof of what an intelligent membership and upright officials can accomplish." "Now that you survived the 'Influenza Communists' may you join our locals to bring the International to its former glory," wires Meyer Rosenberg, of the Seattle Local 28. The "heartiest greetings" of Charles Schatz, president, and Sol Polakoff, manager of the Toronto cloakmakers' Joint Board, were also received. And further, in part, "your union may be proud of the achievements gained for its membership and for its loyalty to the International."

M. Katsman, chairman of the Montreal, Canada, Local 19, wires, "Our heartiest congratulations on your 25th anniversary" and expresses the hope that the experiences gained by the local will "serve as a lesson and also as the initiative to strengthen the ranks that you may march forward in the realization of industrial democracy."

Julius Hochman, International vice-president, who was unable to attend either of the celebrations, owing to his presence in Boston, wired: "Please, accept my heartiest congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Cutters' Local. May your solidarity and loyalty to our International and the American labor movement serve as an inspiration in our great task to rebuild our union and eliminate the destroyers and disrupters from our ranks."

B. C. Vladeck, of the "Forward" editorial staff, conveyed "to all assembled my congratulations upon your 25th anniversary. Your organization only recently has rendered greatest service to our movement by stopping invasion of our enemies." International vice-president David Godes, of Boston, extended his "best wishes to officers and members of Local 10... convey my appreciation of your past activities."

### Local 10 Seen As Example

Meyer Berkman, chairman, and Frank J. Chaloupka, secretary, of the Cleveland Cutters, Local 42, wired their congratulations on the occasion. "Local 10, the Cutters of New York, were the pioneers in showing the necessity for the cutters of our industry to organize. We are glad to fol-

low in your footsteps, to reach the same glorified recognition in the trade union movement which your local enjoys."

M. A. Goldstein, secretary-treasurer of Local 10 on the occasion of the anniversary, declared that "your local is a shining light in our International organization and your successful achievements are well demonstrated by the spirit of unity at your celebration." The Philadelphia Cloak & Skirtmakers' Joint Board declared that they are proud of Local 10 and of its deeds and wished it "many years of successful work in the ranks of our International."

The Philadelphia Waist & Dressmakers' Union, Local 50, of which Elias Reisberg is manager, stated "your foresight, your courage, and your solidarity have been torches whose glow has illuminated the path for the other locals of our International. . . . The membership of our Union feels proud of you and shares with you in your jubilee."

Philip Orlofsky, manager of the Clothing Cutters' Union, Local 4, A. C. W. of A., wished Local 10 success "in the future as you have (succeeded) in the past to maintain your organization against the insidious attacks of those who wish to destroy it." Harry Lang, journalist, on the behalf of himself and Mrs. Lang declared that "as a close observer of the labor movement for a number of years, especially of the labor struggles in the needle trades during the trying years of building as well as forming and moulding organizations of modern structures I learned to value . . . the membership of Local 10. You have good cause to feel proud of your accomplishments."

"Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the undisturbed and normally functioning Local 10," are the greetings of Brothers Louis Lipsky, Abraham Belson, Joseph Stankevitz and Morris Liebenthal, at present members of Local 2 and formerly of Local 17. On behalf of the executive board of Operators' Local 2, Brother Zuckerman, chairman, and Kuritsky, secretary, wired that "our executive board is extremely happy to congratulate you on your 25th anniversary of the existence of your organization. This jubilee is not only the celebration of Local 10 but of the entire labor movement. It is a very glad moment for organized labor which takes pride in the accomplishments you have attained on behalf of your membership. Good luck to you and continue to serve for further victory in the interests of your membership which means the growth and strength of your local union in particular and the International in general."

### Proud of Local 10 Affiliation

Brothers Rein, manager and Kurtzman, chairman of the executive board of Finishers' Local 9, "heartily congratulate Local 10 on its 25th anniversary. During your existence as a factor in the labor movement you have exemplified yourself as a staunch wall against all onslaughts by the enemies of organized labor. We are proud of the fact that you are a part of the International Union with which we are affiliated, and are glad of the progress you have made. We look forward to celebrate together with you your further achievements on the behalf of our entire membership."

The executive board of Local 32

telegraphed: "Greetings. Accept our heartiest congratulations and best wishes on your 25th anniversary. Your faithful activities place you in the forefront of the labor movement." Telegrams were also received from the following unions:

Cutters' Union, Local 73 of Boston, of which Sam Spiegel is president and Emanuel Frank, secretary. Cloak & Skirtmakers' Union, Local 23 of Newark, signed by Max Brook, manager. Abraham Snyder sent greetings on behalf of the White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62. Executive Board of Local 38; Isaac Posen and Philip Kramer, business agents of the Boston joint board; R. Guskin on behalf of the Hebrew Actors' Union; Harry Fruchter for the Naturalization Aid League; Charles Krindler, Vice-president of the International from Cleveland. Ben Kurland, for the Boston Joint Board; D. Rubin, on behalf of the executive board of Local 3 and B. Kaplan, member of Local 2, N. Y. operators.

The floral greetings that bedecked the stage of Mecca Temple, came from shop groups of cutters and sister organizations. The following are the shops whose cutters sent floral greetings: Hattie Carnegie, Harry Rentner, P. Portfolio, L. Kashman and Portfolio, Mutual & Rosenblum Corporation, Weinstein Corporation, A. Beller, H. Fredericks, Isidore Weinstein, B. Heller, Morris Bandler, Freid Brothers, Barber & Kagel, Wm. Davidow, Aaron Goldstein, and Kagel and Drexler.

The following are the locals that send floral greetings: Local 2, cloak operators; 6, swiss embroidery workers; 9, cloak finishers; 22, dressmakers; 23, cloth dress and skirt makers; 25, pressers; 48, Italian cloakmakers; 51, children's dressmakers and the International Union and the Joint Board.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

Members who did not secure their "History of Local 10" at the banquet may receive their copy in the office of Local 10 upon presentation of their dues book.

Participants in the banquet who desire to purchase a copy of the flashlight picture taken may do so in the office of the union at \$1 per copy.

## Presser Executive Quits Outlaw Local

Sam Sterman, known among pressers, members of Local 35, as an "extreme left," resigned last week from the "executive" group of the deposed Local 35, quit the "Communist Trade Union Educational League" and joined the International local.

Sam Sterman, an active trade unionist and revolutionist in Russia, was one of the builders of the Cloak and Mantle Workers' Union in London, England. When he came to New York he at once became active in union work. A few months before the cloak strike, he became connected with the "Educational League," and during the strike he spoke in the halls and agitated for the Communist Party.

Sterman, however, sharply disagreed with the subsequent tactics of the Communists and began to look with suspicion upon their depredations. The Communists, thereupon, subjected him to a severe inquisition and gave him a warning to "behave," or else stand ready to pay the consequences. Under threat of bodily harm they succeeded in extracting from him a statement of loyalty to the Communist Party, but after he left their office he at once disavowed this "statement," explaining that it was procured by duress, and that in the future he would have nothing to do with the treacherous crew of Communists.

## Members of Local 10!

### Regular Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1927, in

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE

The meeting will begin at 7:30 P. M. sharp